

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A sub-aqua breathing system comprising a housing configured, in use, to float on the surface of a body of water, said housing containing buoyant material and a compressed air tank connectable to an air line feeding a mouthpiece regulator, wherein the tank is toroidal and the housing includes a storage compartment for retaining at least one air line therein and means for deploying said at least one air line from said compartment when the system is used.

2. A sub-aqua breathing system according to claim 1 wherein said means is operable to partially deploy said at least one air line from the housing when the system is used.

3. A sub-aqua breathing system according to claim 1, wherein the buoyant material is disposed in regions around the periphery of the toroidal compressed air tank.

4. A sub-aqua breathing system according to claim 1, including a base rotatably mounted to the housing to cover the storage compartment and having at least one opening therein for the passage of an air line from the storage compartment through the base.

5. A sub-aqua breathing system according to claim 1, including a base and a release mechanism for releasably mounting the base to the housing over the storage compartment.

6. A sub-aqua breathing system according to claim 5, wherein the release mechanism is a lever pivotally mounted to the housing, the lever and base including cooperating means that engage to retain the base on the housing.

7. A sub-aqua breathing system according to claim 6, wherein the release mechanism includes spring means to bias the lever into a position in which the cooperating means are in engagement.

8. A sub-aqua breathing system according to claim 6, wherein the release mechanism includes a safety release pin that cooperates with the housing and the lever to prevent inadvertent operation of the release mechanism.

9. A sub-aqua breathing system according to claim 1, including at least one air line coiled within the storage compartment, each air line having one end connected, via an air flow control valve, to the toroidal compressed air tank.

10. A sub-aqua breathing system according to claim 1, wherein a removable cover is mounted on the housing to provide access to the interior thereof.

11. A sub-aqua breathing system according to claim 10 wherein the housing contains a mast with a diving pennant attached thereto, the mast being removable from the housing and mountable in a socket thereon.

12. A sub-aqua breathing system as claimed in claim 1, wherein the buoyant material is formed from a number of circumferentially spaced floats, the system including means for radially deploying the floats from the housing.

13. A sub-aqua breathing system according to claim 12 wherein the deployment means includes an air bag associated with each float and inflatable in response to operation of a manually operated valve to direct air from the compressed air tank to the air bags to radially deploy the air bags from the housing.

14. A sub-aqua breathing system as claimed in claim 13 wherein the floats are attached to spring means operable to retract the floats in response to operation of a second manually operated valve to expel the air from the air bags.

15. A sub-aqua breathing system according to claim 1, wherein the housing has a discus-like shape.

16. A sub-aqua system according to claim 1, wherein a light is mounted on the housing.

17. A sub-aqua system according to claim 1, wherein the housing forms a sealed unit such that air trapped within the housing and surrounding the toroidal tank provides additional buoyancy thereto.